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Agenda item 111
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman following informal consultations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolutions 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002 and 57/__ of __ December 2002,[1]

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005,[2] the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[3] and the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

1. *Endorses* the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[5] and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

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[1] A/C.5/57/L.23.
[2] A/57/85.
[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), chap. II, paras. 25 and 26.
[4] See A/57/636.
[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16).

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2. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

3. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

5. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to submit, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the total amount of resources that he should have at his disposal, from all sources of financing, in order to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities;

6. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in proposed budget outlines and proposed programme budget provisions for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make appropriate provisions in the next proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 to minimize adverse impacts on the provision of adequate conference services and other related services, in accordance with its resolutions 56/254 D and 56/287, drawing also on the improvements in the management of conference services;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 2,876 million United States dollars at revised 2002-2003 rates;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to resubmit the proposed information technology strategy in accordance with resolution 56/239 of 24 December 2001 during the resumed fifty-seventh session;

11. *Decides* to consider, in addition to the preliminary estimate, provisions for information technology and common services facilities infrastructure in the amount of 29.8 million United States dollars in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, bearing in mind the comments of the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his report;[2]

12. *Decides also* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

13. *Decides further* that the priorities for the biennium 2004-2005 are the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, having considered his preliminary indicative estimates contained in the proposed budget outline, to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 13 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

15. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate of 21.6 million United States dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.